



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

Texas Field Office · Post Office Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767 · 800-842-1331 · www.nass.usda.gov/tx

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For the week of October 11 - 17, 2010

Agricultural Summary: Most areas of the state received little to no moisture while areas of the Northern High Plains, South Texas, North and South East Texas received 0.01 to 2.0 inches of rain. Winter wheat was struggling with little rainfall in the Northern High Plains. The irrigated wheat crop progressed where irrigation water has been applied. Oat fields in the Northern Low Plains and the Cross Timbers were beginning to dry out due to lack of moisture in the area. The good weather in the Southern High Plains allowed farmers to defoliate cotton. Soybean, sorghum, and corn harvest progressed with many corn producers getting close to completion. Pecan shuck split began in the Edwards Plateau with harvest beginning soon. Peanut harvest was nearing completion in the Plains. Irrigation water was being applied to cabbage, spinach, carrots, and onions due to dry conditions this past week. Sunflower harvest continued in the Southern High Plains. Generally, livestock was in good condition with calves being weaned and coming off grass. Topsoil moisture was mostly short to adequate across the state.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Winter wheat was struggling with little rainfall in the Northern High Plains. The irrigated wheat crop progressed where irrigation water has been applied. In the Blacklands, wheat is now being dusted in and will not germinate until more rainfall is received. In South Texas, mild temperatures and no rainfall allowed for wheat seeding to continue. Oat fields in the Northern Low Plains and the Cross Timbers were beginning to dry out due to lack of moisture in the area. Oat seeding continued in South Texas.

Cotton: Cotton is starting to be stripped with good to above average lint return in the Northern High Plains and harvest is gaining ground with more producers being able to move into the fields. The good weather in the Southern High Plains allowed farmers to defoliate cotton. In South Texas, dry and mild weather conditions have persisted and most producers have had an opportunity to catch up on stalk destruction and preparing fields for winter. Cotton condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Corn: In the Northern High Plains, corn harvest was still very active with some producers getting close to completion. Warm temperatures and no moisture have helped producers complete corn harvest activities. Aflatoxin levels remain high on some fields in the Blacklands with harvest being completed. Statewide, corn condition was mostly fair to good.

Sorghum: Sorghum harvest in the Northern High Plains continued. Storage was filling up and some was being piled on the ground. Late sorghum was still a little green. Sorghum condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Soybeans: Soybean harvest progressed despite the unfavorable weather conditions in the Northern High Plains. Statewide, soybean condition was mostly fair to good.

Peanuts: Peanut harvest was nearing completion in the Plains. Peanut digging and thrashing has started in South Texas. Statewide, peanut condition was mostly fair to good.

Sunflowers: Sunflower harvest continued in the Southern High Plains.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Irrigation water was being applied to cabbage, spinach, carrots, and onions due to dry conditions this past week. Sugarcane and citrus harvest was underway. Planting of onions continued. Most livestock producers have adequate hay as winter approaches with the last cutting occurring due to the continued dry weather.

Pecans: Pecan shuck split began in the Edwards Plateau with harvest beginning soon. In South Central Texas, harvest was underway.

Livestock, Range and Pasture Report

Generally, livestock was in good condition with calves being weaned and coming off grass. Supplemental feeding continued with grass becoming dormant because of the dry conditions. Feral hogs remain a problem. Range and pasture condition was mostly fair to good.

Crop Condition Table – October 17, 2010

Crop	Percent					Index ^{1/}	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2010	2009
Corn	17	45	19	9	10	73	54
Cotton	15	45	29	8	3	77	61
Peanuts	16	61	22	1	0	86	83
Sorghum	7	52	29	10	2	75	49
Soybeans	8	34	40	14	4	67	57
Range & Pasture	6	33	36	17	8	-	-

1/ The formula for the condition index is $I = (5V + 25P + 60F + 90G + 110E)/100$ where I=crop condition Index and V, P, F, G, E = percentage of crop rated very poor, poor, fair, good, excellent.

Crop Progress Table – October 17, 2010 *

Crop	Stage	Percent		
		2010	2009	Average 2005 – 2009
Corn	Mature	99	99	99
	Harvested	89	84	88
Cotton	Bolls Opening	92	80	82
	Harvested	26	19	24
Peanuts	Harvested	52	34	29
Sorghum	Coloring	100	89	95
	Mature	94	71	83
	Harvested	74	69	74
Soybeans	Dropping Leaves	99	91	97
	Harvested	86	74	85
Sunflowers	Harvested	89	21	54
Winter Wheat	Planted	73	72	72
	Emerged	41	48	47
Oats	Planted	63	67	61
	Emerged	29	23	24

* Visit our web site to view the crop progress regional **maps**, available the following working day of this release at www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Texas/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/maps/.

Precipitation Table – October 17, 2010 ^{1/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions ^{2/}	Inches of Accumulation				Percent
	Previous Week (Oct 11 - 17)	Month- to-Date (Oct 1 - 17)	Year- to-Date (Jan 1 – Oct 17)	Annual Normal (1971 – 2000)	Previous Three Months of Normal (Jul - Sep)
High Plains	0.00	0.08	18.21	19.64	95
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.05	23.18	24.51	129
North Central Texas	0.04	0.16	26.96	35.23	141
East Texas	0.69	0.69	23.35	48.08	74
Trans-Pecos	0.00	0.00	11.39	13.19	100
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.00	19.34	24.73	91
South Central Texas	0.00	0.00	29.32	36.21	150
Upper Coast	0.11	0.11	37.12	50.31	144
South Texas	0.00	0.00	24.55	24.08	153
Lower Valley	0.00	0.00	30.19	25.43	149

1/ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

2/ High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Texas: 3, 4; East Texas: 5-N, 5-S. Trans-Pecos: 6; Edwards Plateau: 7; South Central Texas: 8-N, 8-S; Upper Coast: 9; South Texas: 10-N; Lower Valley: 10-S.

For more weather information, please visit the following web sites:

www.srh.noaa.gov/ffcshare/precip_analysis_new.php and www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

Top Soil Moisture by District – October 17, 2010

Condition	Percent of Acreage, by District ^{1/}														
	1-N	1-S	2-N	2-S	3	4	5-N	5-S	6	7	8-N	8-S	9	10-N	10-S
Very Short	35	9	12	20	9	3	29	42	25	13	7	0	24	1	0
Short	53	46	59	28	48	37	57	49	51	43	43	32	34	31	8
Adequate	12	36	28	48	43	60	14	9	24	41	39	68	41	65	91
Surplus	0	9	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	3	11	0	1	3	1

1/ High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Texas: 3, 4; East Texas: 5-N, 5-S.
 Trans-Pecos: 6; Edwards Plateau: 7; South Central Texas: 8-N, 8-S; Upper Coast: 9; South Texas: 10-N; Lower Valley: 10-S.

Cooperating Agencies:

- Texas AgriLife Extension Service
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- National Weather Service

